

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 INT-05 GSA-01 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 H-02

/087 W

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R 161130Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1003

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAR ES SALAAM 0918

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN PFOR EMIN

SUBJECT: ZAIRE'S COPPER EXPORTS

REFS: (A) LUSAKA 606 AND KINSHASA 2203, (B) 75 DAR ES SALAAM 5177
AND 4071

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ARTICLE IN TANGOV'S DAILY NEWS OF MAR 16 QUOTES DAR PORT
MANAGER, CHOLOBI, AS SAYING ZAIRIAN CARGO WHICH HAD BEEN
PASSING THROUGH BEIRA (40,000 TONS PER YEAR) MAY BE DIVERTED
TO DAR ES SALAAM. HOWEVER, NO FINAL DECISION REACHED NOR
ITINERARY SELECTED.

2. ACCORDING ARTICLE, DAR PORT CONGESTION PROBLEMS HAVE EASED
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FROM TWO MONTHS AGO. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE NOW ONLY 33,000 TONS

GENERAL ZAMBIAN IMPORTS, AND 21,000 TONS ZINC AND 9,000 TONS COPPER FROM ZAMBIA AWAITING SHIPMENT. DURING DEC THROUGH FEB THIS YEAR PORT HANDLED 135,000 TONS OF COPPER COMPARED TO 77,000 TONS IN SAME PERIOD YEAR AGO.

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3. PORT MANAGER AND OTHER EA HARBORS OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US IN PAST FEW DAYS THAT THEY VERY WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBLE SURGE IN ZAIRE TRADE THROUGH DAR. (FREIGHT FORWARDERS HAVE BEEN UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT ON THIS ISSUE AS THEY MEETING WITH ZAMBIANS.) HARBORS OFFICIALS SAY ZAIRIAN TRAFFIC HERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN UNPREDICTABLE. THEY ADD THAT "NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW OR CARE WHAT MAY BE COMING OR HOW IT WILL BE HANDLED IF IT DOES." SINCE LOBITO CLOSURE, 9-10,000 TONS OF ZAIRE COPPER PER MONTH TRANSITING DAR, COMPARED TO 1975 TOTAL OF 25,000 TONS.

4. DESPITE CURRENT IMPROVEMENTS IN PORT SITUATION, CHOLOBI FORESEES LIMITED PORT AND INLAND TRANSPORT CAPACITY TO HANDLE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN ZAIRIAN TRAFFIC (SEE REF B). REPORTEDLY, THE EA RAILWAY SYSTEM TO KIGOMA, AND PORT FACILITIES AT KIGOMA, ARE ALREADY STRETCHED TO CAPACITY. CHOLOBI DID SAY TAZARA RECENTLY HAS BEEN HANDLING MORE THAN ITS AVERAGE 15,000 TONS PER MONTH (MAINLY COKE AND WHEAT). HE NOTED THAT ZAMBIAN RAIL WAGONS NOW BEING USED ON TAZARA SO THEY CAN INTERCONNECT WITH ZAMBIAN SYSTEM. HE THOUGHT TAZARA MAY BE ABLE ASSIST ZAIRE TO SOME SMALL DEGREE. FOR EXAMPLE, CHOLOBI ANTICIPATES THAT 22 ZAIRE-BOUND LOCOMOTIVES EXPECTED HERE SOON WILL BE TRANS-SHIPPED VIA TAZARA.

SPAIN

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